

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1. 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A method of making an implantable bearing for an orthopaedic prosthesis, comprising the steps of:

securing a layer of crosslinked polymer to a layer of non-crosslinked polymer so as to create a composite; and

forming said composite into a predetermined shape of said implantable bearing.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said securing step and said forming step are performed contemporaneously.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said securing step comprises compression molding said layer of crosslinked polymer and said layer of non-crosslinked polymer to one another.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein:

both said layer of crosslinked polymer and said layer of non-crosslinked polymer comprise polyethylene, and

said securing step comprises fusing said polyethylene of said layer of crosslinked polymer to said polyethylene of said layer of non-crosslinked polymer.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said forming step comprises forming said composite into an acetabular bearing which is adapted to be implanted into an acetabulum of a patient.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein said forming step comprises forming said composite into a glenoid bearing which is adapted to be implanted into a glenoid of a patient.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein said forming step comprises forming said composite into a tibial bearing which is adapted to be implanted into a tibia of a patient.

26. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said securing step comprises securing a crosslinked polymer preform to a non-crosslinked polymer preform.

27. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said securing step comprises securing a crosslinked polymer preform to a non-crosslinked polymer powder.

28. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said securing step comprises securing a crosslinked, polymer porous structure to a non-crosslinked polymer powder.

29. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said securing step comprises securing a crosslinked, polymer porous structure to a non-crosslinked polymer preform.

30. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said forming step comprises forming an articulating surface in said layer of crosslinked polymer.

31. - 48. (Cancelled)

49. (Original) An implantable bearing for an orthopaedic prosthesis, comprising:

a crosslinked layer of polymer; and

a non-crosslinked layer of polymer secured to said crosslinked layer of polymer.

50. (Original) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein said crosslinked layer of polymer and said non-crosslinked layer of polymer are compression molded to one another.

51. (Original) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein both said crosslinked layer of polymer and said non-crosslinked layer of polymer comprise polyethylene.

52. (Original) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein:

said crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein,

and

said non-crosslinked layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to an acetabulum of a patient.

53. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein:

said crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein,

and

said non-crosslinked layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is adapted to be secured to a glenoid of a patient.

54. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein:
said crosslinked layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein,
and
said non-crosslinked layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein
which is adapted to be secured to a tibia of a patient.

55. (Original) The implantable bearing of claim 49, wherein said crosslinked
layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein.

56. (Original) An implantable bearing for an orthopaedic prosthesis,
comprising:

a first layer of polymer which is crosslinked to a first degree; and
a second layer of polymer secured to said first layer of polymer, said second
layer of polymer is crosslinked to a second degree that is different than said first degree.

57. (Original) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein said second
degree is less than said first degree.

58. (Original) The implantable bearing of claim 57, wherein said first layer of
polymer has an articulating surface defined therein.

59. (Original) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein said first layer of
polymer and said second layer of polymer are compression molded to one another.

60. (Original) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein both said first
layer of polymer and said second layer of polymer comprise polyethylene.

61. (Original) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein:
said first layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and
said second layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is
adapted to be secured to an acetabulum of a patient.

62. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein:
said first layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and
said second layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is
adapted to be secured to a glenoid of a patient.

63. (Withdrawn) The implantable bearing of claim 56, wherein:
said first layer of polymer has an articulating surface defined therein, and
said second layer of polymer has an engaging surface defined therein which is
adapted to be implanted into a tibia of a patient.

64. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least part of at least one of
said first layer of polymer and said second layer of polymer is melted during the securing
step.

65. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of securing said first
layer of polymer to said second layer of polymer so as to create said composite comprises
melt-fusing said first layer of polymer and said second layer of polymer together.

66. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
sterilizing said formed implantable bearing using a surface irradiation technique, and wherein
the step of sterilizing said formed implantable bearing is adequate for pre-implant
sterilization.

67. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein at least part of one of said layer of crosslinked polymer and said layer of non-crosslinked polymer is melted during the securing step.

68. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein at least one of said layer of crosslinked polymer and said layer of non-crosslinked polymer is melted during said step of securing said layer of crosslinked polymer to said layer of non-crosslinked polymer so as to create said composite.

69. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of securing said layer of crosslinked polymer to said layer of non-crosslinked polymer so as to create said composite comprises melt-fusing said layer of crosslinked polymer and said layer of non-crosslinked polymer together.

70. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of sterilizing said formed implantable bearing without gamma irradiation, and wherein the step of sterilizing said formed implantable bearing is adequate for pre-implant sterilization.

71. - 123. (Cancelled)

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